

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) An improved integrated head assembly ~~[[for]]~~ installed on a nuclear reactor having a reactor vessel closure head with a plurality of lifting lugs, the integrated head assembly ~~of the type~~ having a plurality of lug-engaging lift rods that extend upwardly from the reactor vessel closure head, a ring beam supported by the reactor vessel closure head, a shroud assembly supported by the ring beam, a control rod seismic support assembly, and a plurality of fans, wherein the improvement comprises:

a missile shield assembly, including a plurality of shield plates that are slidably retained by parallel slotted beams in a horizontal array ~~directly disposed~~ over the reactor vessel closure head, and wherein the slotted beam includes an open section such that one of the plurality of shield plates disposed at the open section is removable by lifting the shield plate from the horizontal array.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The improved integrated head assembly of Claim 2, further comprising a plurality of work platforms disposed about the array of shield plates.

5. (Currently amended) The improved integrated head assembly of Claim 2, wherein each of the shield plates further comprises a handle extending upwardly from the shield plate, ~~wherein the handle facilitates sliding and removing the shield plate.~~

6. (Currently amended) The improved integrated head assembly of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of parallel slotted beams includes a removable frame member such that removal of the frame member provides an opening in the slotted beam to facilitate removal of at least some of the shield plates when the frame member is removed.

7. (Previously presented) The improved integrated head assembly of Claim 2, wherein the shield plates are individually removable such that a majority of the missile shield may remain in place while accessing a region under the missile shield assembly from above.

8. (Currently amended) A missile shield assembly ~~[[for]]~~ attached to a nuclear reactor, the nuclear reactor including a reactor vessel closure head that supports a plurality of control rod drive mechanisms, the missile shield assembly comprising:

a plurality of shield plates that are slidably retained by a plurality of parallel slotted beams in a horizontal array ~~directly disposed~~ over the control rod drive mechanisms supported by the reactor vessel closure head, and wherein the slotted beam includes an open section such that one of the plurality of shield plates disposed at the open section is removable by lifting the shield plate from the horizontal array.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The missile shield assembly of Claim 8, further comprising a plurality of work platforms disposed about the array of shield plates.

11. (Currently amended) The missile shield assembly of Claim 8, wherein each of the shield plates further comprises a handle extending upwardly from the shield plate, ~~wherein the handle facilitates sliding and removing the shield plate.~~

12. (Currently amended) The missile shield assembly of ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of parallel slotted beams includes a removable frame member such that removal of the frame member provides an opening in the slotted beam to facilitate removal of at least some of the shield plates ~~when the frame member is removed.~~

13. (Previously presented) The missile shield assembly of Claim 8, wherein the shield plates are individually removable such that a majority of the missile shield may remain in place while accessing a region under the missile shield assembly from above.